



Testimony on: SB 1094

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF READING MODELS OR
PROGRAMS.**

February 28, 2023

Dear Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarthy, and Honorable Members of the Committee on Education,

On behalf of the Cheshire Public Schools community, I thank you for your service to the people of Connecticut. I regret that other obligations will prohibit me from being able to thank you and testify in person tomorrow. Thank you for the opportunity to offer my testimony in writing.

Cheshire Public Schools has subscribed to a comprehensive Science of Reading-based approach for many years. Inherent in that approach is a commitment to supporting all students to grow as readers through the use of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, and comprehension. We have also committed to ensuring that all of our staff who work with developing readers are thoroughly trained in best practices. This includes non-certified staff who work to provide remediation under the guidance of certified staff. We are committed to addressing the individual needs of each learner. Our data speaks for itself.

We fully support the Science of Reading mandate, but fully disagree on the process for implementation. We respectfully request that the SDE develop a model curriculum in consultation with reading experts which may be used as a resource for school systems including Cheshire. What we vehemently object to is the prescription of a one-size fits all mandate at tremendous cost (both in time and money). We took great efforts to document how we address the Science of Reading in our 60-page waiver submission to the SDE. Nevertheless, we do so with trepidation that it may be rejected not out of a failure of quality, but the SDE's lack of necessary staff to fully evaluate the submission. **We respectfully request that you modify SB 1094 to require the SDE to design a model curriculum (as they did for Black and Latino Studies) and a comprehensive rubric by which local reading programs may be evaluated.**

Thank you again for your time, consideration, and service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JF Solan".

Jeffrey F. Solan, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Cheshire Public Schools